

HAWAII'S JACKS AND THEIR ALLIES

Jacks and their relatives are members of the family Carangidae, an extremely important group of fishes. Carangids are generally fast-swimming predators, and larger species are top carnivores in coastal waters. As such, they play significant roles in structuring reef fish communities. Ulua and their juveniles, known collectively as pajoi, are the most popular shortline sportfish in Hawai'i. Their fishery is estimated to contribute tens of millions of dollars annually to the local economy.

Several other carangids occur in Hawai'i, but are relatively uncommon, especially around the main islands. They include two species of kāhala (Seriola Ialamli and S. rivoliana), three species of 'opelu (Decapterus macrosoma, D. muroadsi, and D. tabl), and the jacks Carangoides equala and thraspis secunda. In addition, the green jack, Caranx caballus, may be establishing itself in Hawaiian waters.